Washington Bans Leghold Traps

Beavers, bobcats, otters, raccoons, coyotes, and other magnificent furbearing animals were granted protection from steel-jawed leghold traps in Washington on November 7, 2000, when voters approved Initiative 713 (I-713) by a 55 percent to 45 percent margin. In addition to steel-jawed leghold and other body-gripping traps used for recreation or commerce in fur, the initiative also bans the use of two deadly poisons, Compound 1080 and sodium cyanide. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services has used both poisons to kill coyotes. The passage of I-713 marks the fifth time in the last six years that voters have passed state initiatives to combat the use of cruel and indiscriminate traps. Not surprisingly, trappers have sued to invalidate the voter-approved law. The HSUS will lead the effort in court to preserve the law intact.

Unfortunately, a similar measure in Oregon, Measure 97, met with steep opposition by the timber and ranching industries and was defeated. The HSUS and other groups are working to advance continued on page 5

WCRO Investigates CA School Program

The California education code has long required the humane treatment of animals in public elementary and high schools and in school-sponsored activities. The law mandates that live vertebrates are not to be experimentally medicated or drugged in a manner to cause painful reactions or induce pathological conditions; that they not be subjected to injuries through any other treatments; and, if they are kept on school premises, that they be housed and cared for in a safe and humane manner.

The code also contains a provision exempting vocational instruction in the normal practices of animal husbandry. Consequently, an unknown number of animals are killed every year by high school students as part of agriculture courses. Many of these students are freshmen with extremely limited knowledge and training in the physiology, handling, and behavior of animals, let alone slaughter techniques.

Regional Changes

The HSUS is pleased to announce the opening of the Pacific Northwest Regional Office (PNRO) in Seattle, Washington. HSUS Legislative Field Representative Lisa Wathne serves as director. This new office assumes responsibility for all HSUS activities in Washington State and Oregon, while WCRO continues serving California and Nevada and begins serving Hawaii as well. Contact PNRO at 5200 University Way, NE, Ste. 201, Seattle, WA 98105; 206-526-0949.
WCRO

Animals

with the felony arrest in multi-agency response after investigators seized during the arrest were placed in protective custody with various animal transportation of a number of exotic animals that Blocker was keeping and several macaws. All of the animals may face additional charges for keeping a Bengal tiger, now named To date, the Bengal tiger, now named "Trup" by the Performing Animal Welfare Society in Galt, California, where she is being housed, is gradually beginning to adjust to her new environment. She is being housed, is gradually beginning to adjust to her new environment. She is being housed, is gradually beginning to adjust to her new environment.

WCRO

Assists in Seizure of Exotic Animals

A
t the request of Sacramento County Animal Care and Control, WCRO Program Coordinator Cynthia Cutler assisted state and local officials in November with the handling and transportation of a number of exotic animals and birds seized in connection with the felony arrest in Sacramento of Jerry Blocker on charges of forgery, fraud, and perjury. Law enforcement officials asked that WCRO participate in the multi-agency response after investigators determined that Blocker was keeping numerous exotic animals on his property, including an Eurasian eagle owl, a red-tailed hawk, a Bengal tiger, a wolf-hybrid, and several macaws. All of the animals seized during the operation are being held in protective custody with various animal shelters and wildlife sanctuaries. Blocker may face additional charges for keeping exotic animals without a permit and under inhumane or unsanitary conditions.

You Can Help

Our office is gathering additional information on agricultural classes that use animals as we seek legislative remedies, and we need your help. We will be looking into which school districts include agricultural classes and if those districts allow the raising and slaughter of animals. We are also interested to know if you or your children have taken or are currently enrolled in such a course. Please forward information to WCRO.

First Strike Goes to Teachers, Inter-Tribal Council

In cooperation with the Sacramento Department of Animal Care and Regulation, WCRO Program Coordinator Bob Reder recently presented information about the well-documented connection between animal abuse and human violence to the 2000 annual meeting of the California Inter-Tribal Council, a group composed of 109 Native American tribes throughout California. The meeting focused on violence in the family, so it was an appropriate setting to introduce the HSUS’s First Strike campaign, which seeks to educate the public and government officials about this connection. Through such presentations, The HSUS helps foster cooperation among community organizations so they can increase intervention efforts, strengthen anti-cruelty laws, and ultimately prevent abuse and violence.

If students are to learn about agriculture in public schools, The HSUS believes they should learn humane, sustainable practices.

How Are We Doing?

We’d love to know if your HSUS Regional News meets your expectations. To find out, we’re asking a few quick questions, and we hope you’ll take a minute to respond. After checking your responses, just clip out the form and send it back to us in the envelope enclosed with this newsletter. Thanks for your help. Your responses will help us improve the newsletter.

1. How would you rate your HSUS Regional News overall? (Circle one.)
   - Poor
   - Fair
   - Good
   - Excellent

2. What types of articles do you enjoy most?
   - Legislative
   - News
   - Features
   - Photos

3. What types of articles do you enjoy least?
   - Legislative
   - News
   - Features
   - Photos

4. Do you prefer longer or shorter articles? (Circle one.)
   - Longer
   - Shorter

5. Would you like to see more photos?
   - Yes
   - No

6. How do you think the HSUS Regional News could be improved?

Reflect for a moment...

How can I help animals and receive income and tax savings at the same time?

By making a planned giving gift to The Humane Society of the United States, you can assure that animals will receive the protection they need while providing significant tax savings and income to yourself. Naming The HSUS as a beneficiary of your estate or trust demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the society for future tasks. We will be happy to send our latest information on planned giving and our programs to help animals.

Mail this coupon in the envelope enclosed or send it directly to The Humane Society of the United States, WCRO, PO. Box 417220, Sacramento, CA 95841-7220.

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City __________________ State ________ Zip ______
Phone ________________________________

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Celebrating Farm Animals at Veggie Cook-Off

The eighth annual National Farm Animals Awareness Week ran September 17–23. WCRCO celebrated the event on Sunday, October 1, as a sponsor of the popular annual Veggie Cook-Off held in Sacramento to benefit Animal Place, a Vacaville-based sanctuary for farm animals. More than 400 people enjoyed sampling a spectacular array of healthy and delicious appetizers, entrees, and desserts. The first 200 of the more than 400 guests received attractive ceramic mug gifts donated by The HSUS with the Veggie Cook-Off logo on one side and a National Farm Animals Awareness Week design on the opposite side. WCRCO Director Eric Sakach had the "honor" of serving as a taste judge.

WCRCO Director Speaks in Brazil

Illegal animal fighting and the abuse of animals in rodeos were the topics of two presentations by WCRCO Director Eric Sakach during the second Latin-American Animal Protection Congresso and third Brazilian Animal Protection Congresso held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in October. Sakach traveled to Sao Paulo at the invitation of ARCA Brasil, an animal protection organization, on behalf of Humane Society International and The HSUS to give a presentation on the status of illegal animal fighting activities in North America and how the activities relate to what is reported internationally. He was joined in the presentation by Galt Police Department Detective Chris Sanford, an HSUS consultant. While cockfighting is illegal in Brazil, increases in that activity are being reported there along with reports of organized dogfighting. According to Brazil law-enforcement authorities, much of the animal fighting activity in Brazil is tied directly to narcotics trafficking. Sakach also participated in a debate on the abuse of animals in rodeos.

Nevada Youth Sentenced for Animal Cruelty

On January 13, 2001, the Nevada County Juvenile Court sentenced a 19-year-old female for animal cruelty. The case had shocked and outraged people throughout the state. The youth had been charged with gouging out the eyes of a Labrador retriever last April. The blinded dog was found by a citizen who brought him to the Lyon County Animal Shelter. Worker sheltered the dog to a local veterinary hospital where veterinarians euthanized the suffering animal.

Local citizens established a reward fund amounting to $3,000, and WCRCO contributed another $2,000 for information leading to an arrest and conviction. The boy, whose name has not been released because of his age, was identified as a suspect when several witnesses came forward, some responding to the reward offers. Information from those witnesses led to the youth’s conviction, according to Lyon County Chief Deputy District Attorney John Schlegelmilch. Prior to sentencing, WCRCO provided information to the Lyon County probation department supporting the link between animal abuse and human violence and urged the department to recommend to the court a period of incarceration and psychological treatment.

During the sentencing hearing, Third Judicial District Court Judge David Huff ruled that the court found the defendant to be a "delinquent child." It was "a horrible and cruel act you committed," Huff said.

Abandoned animals are a crime. HSUS position: Support. Status: In committee.

A. B. 1709, by Assemblywoman Carol Miglen, expands existing law that makes it a felony if a "mischievous animals" kills a person. If the animal also does "great bodily injury" to someone, it would also be a felony crime. HSUS position: Support. Status: In committee.

B. S. 237, by Sen. Edward Vincent, requires that road signs be posted at designated locations advising that animal abandonment is a crime. HSUS position: Support. Status: In committee.

Legislative Update

Following is an update on recently enacted legislation and a listing of bills that may need your support. HSUS staff are constantly in contact with state legislators and local animal advocates to assist in the passage of humane legislation and to stop bills considered inhumane. We cannot guarantee that the HSUS position on the bills will remain as reported here, as bills may be amended. For up-to-the-minute information and to become a member of the Humane Activist Network, contact WCRCO.

California

Official California legislative information can be obtained from the state Web site at www.leginfo.ca.gov/billinfo.html. To contact the governor’s office or legislators, call 916-322-9900.

A. B. 338, by Sen. Edward Vincent, requires any animal shelter that supplies alive or dead animals to biological research, educational institutions, veterinarians, or blood banks, post a sign to advise the public. HSUS position: Support. Status: In committee.

A. B. 2149, by Sen. Richard Polanco, would have made it a crime to sell or exchange an exotic animal to a hunting ranch, with the exception of certain game species. HSUS position: Support. Status: Vetoed by the governor.

A. B. 161, by Assemblyman Ken Maddox, redifies "dog breeders" to include those who sell two or more litter’s per year and requires them to provide warranties and medical care. It also prohibits the use of raised wire floors in kennels, as is allowed under current law. HSUS position: Support. Status: In committee.

A. B. 1462, by Sen. Don Perata, requires a veterinarian to be on call during rodeo events; requires that local animal control be notified by event promoters; prohibits certain practices found in rodeos, such as electric prods in the chutes; and requires veterinarians to report injuries to the State Veterinarian Board. HSUS position: Support. Status: Signed by the governor.

Write to the Nevada State Legislature at 401 S. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89710. Call the Senate at 775-684-1400 and the Assembly at 775-684-8555. The Web site is: www.leg.state.nv.us.


A. B. 208, by Assembly member Collins, limits local authority to address local animal issues. HSUS position: Oppose. Status: In committee.

A. B. 54, by Sen. Rawson, creates special vehicle license plates, the partial proceeds of which will be applied towards spay/neuter assistance. HSUS position: Support. Status: In committee.

The horse, who broke a leg during a rodeo, would have benefited from a new California law that prohibits the use of electric prods in chutes and requires that a veterinarian be on call at all times during rodeos.

THE UNITED STATES

The Humane Society of the United States

WCRCO Regional News

Spring 2001

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

WCRCO Regional News

Spring 2001
Director’s Report

By Eric Sakach
Director of the West Coast Regional Office

Citizens Have Something to Crow About in Riverside County

If you can imagine what it is like to hear hundreds of roosters crowing loudly and nonstop beginning at about 3 o’clock in the morning until mid-morning and then starting up again in the afternoon every day of every week, you might be able to understand why Cindy Scheirer of Riverside, California, helped to initiate a campaign to limit the number of roosters that can be raised in residential areas of her county.

Early last year, Scheirer learned about two cockfighting busts in her area at about 200 fowl sounding off for much of the day and night. Earmuffs offered little relief.

Cindy became a very busy speaker addressing a variety of community groups and civic leaders. She even led a “rooster noise field trip” to her property for the Riverside County Planning Commissioners in order to gain support for her proposal to regulate the number of fowl who can be raised on neighborhood parcels of land. Riverside County Supervisor John Tavaglione, who represents Cindy’s district, had received a handful of rooster noise complaints over the years, so he wasn’t surprised when the Planning Commissioners passed the ball to him following a hearing on the proposed ordinance.

Cindy contacted our office and learned more about the noisy fowl and the reasons why more of the fowl farms were cropping up. A contributing factor is that cockfighting has been moving their operations to California. In California, cockfighting is still just a misdemeanor crime, whereas in some other nearby states, including Arizona, cockfighting has been made a felony crime. Joined by WCRO’S John Dommers, Cindy and a citizen support team co-led by Louise Mazochi, Karen Buford, and Linda McDonald presented compelling testimony to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors at a hearing last August.

Despite vocal opposition from gamefowl breeders and cockfighting sympathizers, the Riverside County Supervisors passed Ordinance Number 348, which severely restricts the number of roosters who can be raised on various sized parcels of property. Now Cindy Scheirer and dozens of other thankful residents of Riverside County are welcoming the peace and quiet this ordinance will bring them in the months ahead as the ordinance is phased in.

Supervisor Tavaglione spearheaded the drive to get the ordinance passed, as most of the problems were reported in his district. Unfortunately, he is now facing a recall effort staged by a group of people who opposed the ordinance. WCRO has issued a letter of appreciation for Supervisor Tavaglione’s work to pass the ordinance with the hope it will assist a citizen’s group to help defeat the recall effort. According to John Dommers, “Supervisor Tavaglione simply acted in the best interest of his constituents and the animals. He has listened to all sides and acted in a fair and appropriate manner. He has a fine and honorable record as a supervisor and does not deserve to be recalled from his position.”

WCRO frequently receives complaints from concerned citizens and frustrated homeowners who are suddenly faced with the noise and odor problems associated with the raising of gamecocks. Homeowners and real estate agents have complained to us about declining property values and an inability to attract buyers because of the accompanying noise and possible criminal activity related to cockfighting. Our office will be pleased to provide elected officials with copies of ordinances passed in Riverside County and other jurisdictions to help combat these problems. We congratulate Cindy Scheirer on her victory and for setting an example for others faced with similar problems.